

! IMPORTANT SPOILER ALERT !!

The discussion questions delve into significant plot details, character arcs, and the ending of *Shattered But Not Silenced*. If you want to avoid spoilers, please don't download.

About the Author

Helena St. George writes nonfiction, young adult, and new adult fiction, blending imaginative worlds from dystopian futures to horror and fantasy. As an adjunct professor, Helena taught First-Year Experience, literature, writing, and communication courses. She inspired students to appreciate the written word through literature and poetry. Her writing explores themes of social justice, and the nature of good and evil. She hopes to inspire a lasting love of literature and learning. She lives in Northern California with her husband and their fun-loving labradoodle.

Book Club Discussion Questions

Character & Voice

1. Maya is described as socially awkward, fiercely observant, and quietly defiant. How do these traits shape the way she survives—and resists—the world around her?
2. How does Maya's dry, ironic inner voice affect your connection to her? Did it change how you experienced moments of fear or injustice?
3. In what ways does Maya's perspective allow her to see truths others miss—or choose to ignore?

Neurodivergence & Representation

4. How does the novel challenge or complicate common portrayals of autistic characters in fiction?
5. Where do you see Maya's neurodivergence as a strength? Where does society turn it into a vulnerability?
6. How does the story explore the difference between being "different" and being labeled as a problem?

Art, Voice & Resistance

7. Maya's art becomes her primary form of expression and resistance. Why do you think art is such a powerful—and dangerous—tool in this society?
8. What does the novel suggest about who gets to speak, and whose voices are dismissed or silenced?
9. Can you think of real-world examples where art or storytelling has challenged power or exposed injustice?

Society, Power & Truth

10. The government in the novel promises safety and order while using control and misinformation. How does this tension reflect real-world systems or fears?
11. How do the press, police, and authority figures shape public perception in the story? Who controls the narrative—and at what cost?
12. What role does fear play in maintaining control over society’s “undesirables”?

Themes & Personal Reflection

13. The novel explores isolation, belonging, identity, and agency. Which theme resonated with you most, and why?
14. What does “finding your voice” mean for Maya—and how does that definition evolve throughout the story?
15. Were there moments where Maya’s choices surprised you? Did you agree with them?

Ending & Big Questions

16. Does the novel feel hopeful, cautionary, or both? Why?
17. What questions does the story leave unanswered about resistance, truth, or survival?
18. If this story continued, what would you want to see happen next for Maya?